news!

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ANNENBERG CINEMATHEQUE: FOURTH SEASON THIS FALL

The Annenberg Cinematheque, a showcase for the continuing display of world cinema, will open its fourth season with four new series: "German Expressionist Cinema," "Contrasts," "Keaton: Wordless Communication," and "Five Japanese Directors." All films will be shown in the Studio Theatre at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Center. Each series will center around a theme, a country, or a style, the four to be presented concurrently, beginning on Thursday, October 9, and running through November 9. The Cinematheque is programmed by Amos Vogel, Director of Film for the Annenberg Center. Phebe Shinn is Film Coordinator.

The first of five programs included in the "German Expressionist Cinema" series will open on Thursday, October 9, with Fritz Lang's "Destiny," one of the most famous and influential films of Germany's golden era. A metaphysical fantasy set in three different historical periods, "Destiny" concerns a young woman's attempts to outwit Death. Films from the great period of German cinema between the two world wars characterize this series, emphasizing such qualities as dreams and the bizarre; Expressionist distortions of lighting, acting and decor; dissonance; and mysticism.

Portraits and cinema verite interviews comprise the second Cinematheque series, "Contrasts." The first program in this series, "Religious Parameters," will be screened on Thursday, October 9, featuring three works: "Holy Outlaw," a profile of Daniel Berrigan, "Magical Death," a film about a witch doctor, and "Testament," autobiographical statement by an avant-garde filmmaker. The "Contrasts" series shows how an actual event can be thrown into another context by logical or creative juxtaposition.

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"Keaton: Wordless Communication," the third series, will present six features and rarely seen shorts, opening on Friday, October 10, with "Our Hospitality," a satirical feature made in 1923. Two short films, "High Sign" and "One Week," will also be screened. Among the master comedians of the silent era (who understood the non-verbal potential of film), Keaton stands out as the classic, resourceful simpleton, stoically stumbling through a nightmare world with an aplomb no catastrophe can shake. Besides being the protagonist, Keaton also served as director of his outstanding films, with an unfailing sense of editing and timing.

The last Cinematheque series, "Five Japanese Directors," will present a varied program of films, ranging in theme from Brecht to period pieces to the erotic. This series opens on Friday, October 10, with Kon Ichikawa's "Odd Obsession," a sardonic, coldly dispassionate amorality tale. "Odd Obsession" was awarded the Special Prize, Cannes Film Festival for "Audacity of Subject and Plastic Qualities."

The Annenberg Cinematheque has been conceived to exhibit the wide-ranging diversity of the film medium, which transcends the limitations of Hollywood and the narrative film. Particular emphais is on significant, unusual films otherwise unavailable, unknown or unseen.

Two different Cinematheque programs will be shown each night, and all films will be shown twice. Separate tickets are required for each performance. For schedule and ticket information, call the Annenberg Center Box Office, 243-6791.

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